

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

HOME AND OFFICE EDITION



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p\ vb plopped; plop·ping 1 : to fall or move und like that of something dropping — plop\ n 1 : a small area of ground 2 : a ground of an area 3 : the main story (as of a book) 4 : a secret scheme : INTRIGUE plotted; plot·ting 1 : to make a plot or plan of 'em or as if on a chart 3 : to plan or contrive etly — plot·ter n le·ver, *plō\ n, pl plover or plovers any of shore-inhabiting birds that differ from the in having shorter stouter billsough \plō\ n 1 : an implement used to cut over, and partly break up soil 2 : a device (as a) operating like a plowough vb 1 : to open, break up, or work with : to move through like a plow (a ship, etc.) 3 : to proceed laboriously — plow·er n lower n plau·bōi\ n : a boy who leads the horse plow -man, -man\ n 1 : a man who guides a plow laborer -shér\ n : a part of a plow that cuts the n : a tactic intended to embarrass or frustrate -ponent k\ vb 1 : to pull off or out : PICK; also : to thing from 2 : to play (an instrument) by e strings 3 : TUG, TWITCH : an act or instance of plucking 2 : pluck le·kē\ adj pluck·ier; -est : COURAGEOUS; -ged; plug·ging 1 : to stop, make tight, or inserting a plug 2 : HIT, SHOOT 3 : to publicly 4 : PLOD, DRUDGE n [ME, fr. OE plūme, modif. of L pru-, fr. Gk proumn] 1 : a smooth-skinned borne, by trees related to the peach and so : a tree bearing plums 2 : a raisin when sserts (as puddings) 3 : something exceeding something desirable given in return for a

plū-mij\ n : the feathers of a bird — plum·d\ adj m\ n : a weight on the end of a line (plumb esp. by builders to show vertical direction 1 : VERTICALLY 2 : COMPLETELY 3 : EXACTLY to sound, adjust, or test with a plumb (~ of a well) l : VERTICAL 2 : COMPLETE plā-mar\ n : a worker who fits or repairs fixtures plā-mig\ n : a system of pipes in a building and carrying off water m\ n : FEATHER; esp : a large, conspicuous, feather — plumed \plūmd\ adj — plumpy lumed; plum·ing 1 : to provide or deck 2 : to indulge (oneself) in pride plā-mat\ n : PLUMB; also : PLUMB LINE 3 : to drop or plunge straight down np\ vb 1 : to drop or fall suddenly or heavier something strongly (~ing for change) sudden heavy fall or blow; also : the sound

1 : straight down; also : straight ahead 2 : EDLY

plump\ adj : having a full rounded usu. pleasing form syn fleshy, stout, roly-poly, rotund — plumpness n plunder \plän-där\ vb : to take the goods of by force or wrongfully : PILLAGE — plunderer n plunder n : something taken by force or theft : LOOT plunge \plünj\ vb plunged; plunging 1 : IMMERSE, SUBMERGE 2 : to enter or cause to enter a state or course of action suddenly or violently (~ into war) 3 : to cast oneself into or as if into water 4 : to gamble heavily and recklessly 5 : to descend suddenly plunger \plün-jər\ n 1 : one that plunges 2 : a sliding piece driven by or against fluid pressure : PISTON 3 : a rubber cup on a handle pushed against an opening to free a waste outlet of an obstruction plunk \plünk\ vb 1 : to make or cause to make a hollow metallic sound 2 : to drop heavily or suddenly — plunk n pluperfict \plü-pär-fikt\ adj [ME pluperfith, modif. of LL plusquamperfectus, lit., more than perfect] of, relating to, or constituting a verb tense that denotes an action or state as completed at or before a past time spoken of — pluperfect n plural \plür-əl\ adj [ME, fr. MF & L; MF plurel, fr. L pluralis, fr. plur, plus more] of, relating to, or constituting a word form used to denote more than one — plural n pluri·ali·ty \plü-rä-lä-té\ n, pl -ties 1 : the state of being plural 2 : an excess of votes over those cast for an opposing candidate 3 : the greatest number of votes cast when not a majority pluralize \plür-ə-liz\ vb -ized; -izing : to make plural or express in the plural form — pluralization \plür-ə-lä-zä-shən\ n plus \pläs\ adj [L, more] 1 : mathematically positive 2 : having or being in addition to what is anticipated 3 : falling high in a specified range (a grade of B ~) plus n, pl pluses \plä-saz\ also plusses 1 : a sign + (plus sign) used in mathematics to indicate addition or a positive quantity 2 : an added quantity; also : a positive quality 3 : SURPLUS plus prep 1 : increased by : with the addition of (3 ~) 2 : BESIDES plus conj : AND (soup ~ salad and bread) plus \plash\ n : a fabric with a pile longer and less dense than velvet pile — plushy adj plus \plüs\ adj : notably luxurious — plushy adv — plushness n Plus-to \plü-tō\ n : the planet farthest from the sun — see PLANET table plutocracy \plü-tä-kra-sē\ n, pl -cies 1 : government by the wealthy 2 : a controlling class of the wealthy — plutocrat \plü-tä-krat\ n — plutocratic \plü-tä-kra-tik\ adj plutonium \plü-tō-nē-əm\ n : a radioactive chemical element formed by the decay of neptunium — see ELEMENT table pluvial \plü-vē-əl\ adj 1 : of or relating to rain 2 : characterized by abundant rain pliy \pli\ vb plied; pliy ing 1 : to use, practice, or work diligently (~ a trade) 2 : to keep supplying something to (plied them with liquor) 3 : to go or travel regularly esp. by sea 2ply n, pl plies : one of the folds, thicknesses, or strands of which something (as plywood or yarn) is made 3ply vb plied; pliy ing : to twist together (~ yarns) Plymouth Rock \pli-moth\ n : any of an American breed of medium-sized single-combed domestic fowls pliy wood \pli-wud\ n : material made of thin sheets of wood glued and pressed together pm abbr premium Pm symbol promethium PM abbr 1 paymaster 2 police magistrate 3 postmaster 4 post meridiem — often not cap. and often punctuated 5 postmortem 6 prime minister 7 provost marshall

plump • poi

pmk abbr postmark PMS abbr premenstrual syndrome pmt abbr payment pneu·mat·ic \nū-'ma-tik, nyü-\ adj 1 : of, relating to, or using air or wind 2 : moved by air pressure 3 : filled with compressed air — pneu·mat·ic·al·ly \ti-k(a)-lē\ adv pneumo·co·ni·osis \nū-mō-kō-nē-ō-sis, nyü-\ n : a disease of the lungs caused by habitual inhalation of irritant mineral or metallic particles pneumonia \nū-'mō-nyə, nyü-\ n : an inflammatory disease of the lungs Po symbol polonium PO abbr 1 petty officer 2 post office 'poach \pôch\ vb [ME pochen, fr. OF pocher, lit., to put into a bag, fr. poche bag, pocket, of Gmc origin] : to cook (as an egg or fish) in simmering liquid 2poach vb : to hunt or fish unlawfully — poacher n POB abbr post office box pock \päk\ n : a small swelling on the skin (as in smallpox); also : a spot suggesting this 1pocket \päk\ n 1 : a small bag open at the top or side inserted in a garment 2 : supply of money : MEANS 3 : RECEPTACLE, CONTAINER 4 : a small isolated area or group 5 : a small body of ore — pocketful n 2pocket vb 1 : to put in or as if in a pocket 2 : STEAL 3pocket adj 1 : small enough to fit in a pocket; also : SMALL, MINIATURE 2 : carried in or paid from one's own pocket 1pocket-book \bük\ n 1 : PURSE; also : HANDBAG 2 : financial resources 2pocketbook adj : relating to money pocket gopher n : GOPHER 2 pocket-knife \päk-kat-nif\ n : a knife with a folding blade to be carried in the pocket pocket veto n : an indirect veto of a legislative bill by an executive through retention of the bill unsigned until after adjournment of the legislature pock·mark \päk-märk\ n : a pit or scar caused by smallpox or acne — pock-marked \märkt\ adj poco \pô-kô, \pô-kô-ä\ adv [It, little, fr. L paucus] : SOMEWHAT — used to qualify a direction in music (~ al·legro) poco a poco \pô-kô-ä-pô-kô, \pô-kô-ä-pô\ adv : little by little : GRADUALLY — used as a direction in music pod \päd\ n 1 : a dry fruit (as of a pea) that splits open when ripe 2 : an external streamlined compartment (as for a jet engine) on an airplane 3 : a compartment (as for personnel, a power unit, or an instrument) on a ship or craft POD abbr pay on delivery podiatry \pä-di-ä-tré, pô-\ n : the medical care and treatment of the human foot — podiatrist \pä-di-ä-trist, pô-\ n podium \pô-dë-əm\ n, pl podiums or podia \dë-ə\ 1 : a dais esp. for an orchestral conductor 2 : LECTERN POE abbr port of entry poem \pô-əm\ n : a composition in verse poetry \pô-ə-zé\ n : POETRY poet \pô-ət\ n [ME, fr. OF poete, fr. L poeta, fr. Gk poiētēs maker, poet, fr. poiein to make] : a writer of poetry; also : a creative artist of great sensitivity poetaster \pô-ə-tas-tor\ n : an inferior poet poetess \pô-ə-tos\ n : a girl or woman who is a poet poetic justice n : an outcome in which vice is punished and virtue rewarded usu. in a manner peculiarly or ironically appropriate poetry \pô-ə-tré\ n 1 : metrical writing 2 : POEMS — poetic \pô-e-tik\ or poet·ical \ti-käl\ adj pogrom \pô-gräm, pô-'gräm\ n [Yiddish, fr. Russ. lit., devastation] : an organized massacre of helpless people and esp. of Jews poi \pôi\ n, pl poi or poils : a Hawaiian food of taro